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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Leaders worship, learn at Super Summer

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

A total of 525 Mississippi Baptist youth descended on Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton July 14-18 for Super Summer 2003, described by organizers as an effort to bring together the best young leaders from across the state for intensive instruction in discipleship and evangelism.

In addition, more than 130 youth ministers and college students served as group leaders, team leaders, and small group leaders at the annual event.

"Super Summer is for the student who is a mature and responsible leader growing in their relationship to Christ," said Harvey Ellis, event chairman and consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Swor Auditorium on the campus of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. Over 500 students participated in the annual event, which is designed to identify and train top youth leaders in local Mississippi Baptist churches. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Serving as worship leader for Super Summer 2003 was Gregg Matte of Breakaway Ministries in Bryan, Texas. Dave Hunt and his band served as music leaders. Hunt is the campus minister at Belmont College in Nashville and leads worship at a new church start in Nashville.

Participants are divided into color-coded "schools" according to grade level and the number of years each student has attended Super Summer, Ellis explained, with three schools for first year attendees; two schools for second year attendees; and one school each for third, fourth, and fifth year attendees.

There's also an adult track for youth ministers and youth workers who want to maximize the programs for young people at their respective churches, Ellis added.

Ellis said the Super Summer event in Mississippi has begun to attract churches from other states. "Alabama doesn't have Super Summer, and we had three churches attend from that state. Louisiana is trying to start a Super Summer program, and we had two churches attend from that state."

Ellis also expressed appreciation for the committee that put together Super Summer:

- Greg Biggs, youth minister at Parkway Church, Clinton.
- Bill Bustin, law office manager and member of First Church, Hattiesburg.
- Jim Cain, youth minister at Mt. Zion Church, Columbus.
- Carrie DeVenny, youth minister at Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill.
- Michael Jones, youth minister at Highland Church, Meridian.



WORSHIP TIME — Super Summer participants prepare for the worship time July 18 in the Swor Auditorium on the campus of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. Over 500 students participated in the annual event, which is designed to identify and train top youth leaders in local Mississippi Baptist churches. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

• Sue McAllister, youth ministry consultant and member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

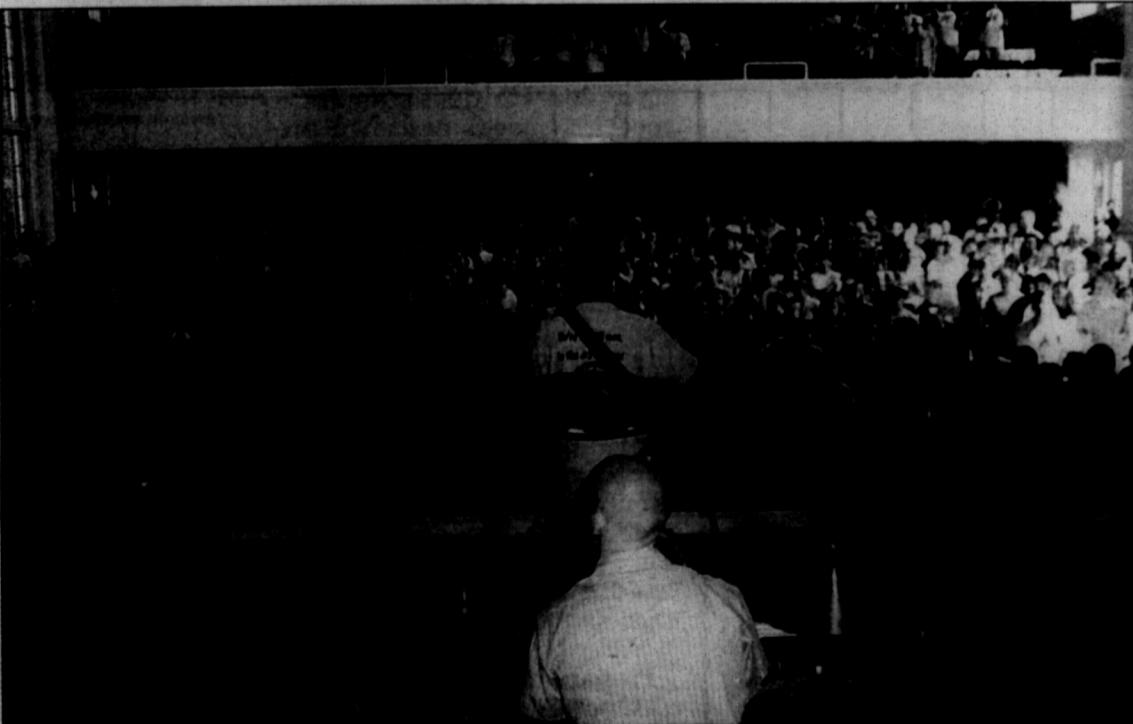
• Rob Ray, youth minister at Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg.

• J.D. Simpson, director of First Priority for Hub City Network in Hattiesburg and member of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

The next Super Summer event will be held on July 12-16, 2004, at Mississippi College in Clinton, Ellis said. "Anyone who

wants to be involved on the front end with leadership for the 2004 Super Summer is encouraged to contact me. I would appreciate hearing from them," he pointed out.

Super Summer is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. To contact Ellis or for more information on the Super Summer program in Mississippi, write him at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 286. E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org.



JOINING THE CELEBRATION — Super Summer participants sing along with Dave Hunt and his band July 18 during the Rainbow Celebration segment of the day's program. The annual Super Summer event, held at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, is designed to help church youth leaders hone their spiritual skills with more than 20 hours of intense discipleship and evangelism training. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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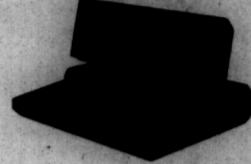
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Newspeak: running from the truth

British author George Orwell first mentioned Newspeak in his hair-curling 1948 novel about the future entitled, interestingly enough, 1984. In that novel, an all-seeing, all-knowing government in the year 1984 has, among other ominous actions, instituted Newspeak — a twisted language that makes bad appear good and good appear bad, regardless of the truth.

Nowhere is Newspeak of greater utility today than in the inscrutable pronouncements of abortion supporters, especially as they see the tide of public opinion and legislation finally turning against their cause.

How is the tide turning? Take Norma McCorvey, for one example. McCorvey served as the anonymous plaintiff in the infamous 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that legalized abortion nationwide at any stage of fetal development. With *Roe* and a related ruling handed down at the same time in the companion case *Doe v. Bolton*, the court forbade the several states from regulating abortion within their borders — which is where the U.S. Constitution squarely and unambiguously placed the responsibility for such matters.

McCorvey has since accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, realized the error of her ways, and wants the *Roe* ruling overturned. She filed a federal lawsuit to reopen the case, and she is currently appealing a U.S. district judge's decision to throw out the suit.

In a statement released June 17, National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) President Kate Michelman said, "This case is nothing more than another sad anti-choice publicity stunt. Anti-choice forces are dedicated to taking away a woman's right to choose and her constitutional right to privacy. Instead of leaving private medical decisions up to a woman and her doctor, anti-choice forces want the government to decide. This case shows the extreme lengths to which they will go to overturn our constitutional right to choose."

Editor's note: The following Baptist Press commentary is reprinted in honor of the longtime Christian stewardship ministry of Larry Burkett, who died on July 4 in Gainesville, Georgia.

God's Word does not promise (or even suggest) that He is going to satisfy every whim and desire we might have, but He does promise to meet our needs and then provide an abundance so that we can help others.

Unfortunately, sometimes the surpluses that God provides for you are not available to help others because they were used to pay for things you thought you needed but actually were not real needs at all.

If you're a parent, when God provides for you He certainly expects you to provide for your family. "If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8).

Prepare for the unexpected.

Over the years, I have become aware of countless families in which unexpected death created great financial

Did you detect all the Newspeak contained in that one small paragraph? A simple deconstruction reveals the following examples:

- McCorvey's motivations for filing the lawsuit are nothing more than "another sad publicity stunt." The use of the word "another" leads us to believe there must be more than one such "stunt," but Michelman fails to cite any other instances — a classic example of Newspeak.

- "Anti-choice" has come to replace "anti-abortion" in the pro-abortion vernacular. Honest, well-meaning people are not against abortion, they're against "choice." Why, abortion is not even abortion! It's a "choice." Killing a developing human being is like making a "choice" on the color of a new car or the flavor of a milkshake. Surely even abortion supporters can't really believe such intellectual dishonesty from their leaders.

- People in the anti-abortion movement are "dedicated" — as in fanatical. Chances are Michelman meant something completely different on July 15 of this year, however, when she described NARAL as "dedicated to ensuring pro-choice Americans vote in 2004..."

- "Anti-choice forces want the government to decide" private medical matters, Michelman asserts. Not only is the phony "anti-choice" description utilized again, it is coupled here with the word "forces" to indicate that a vast and belligerent army stands at the ready to kick in the office door of any doctor who would dare counsel a pregnant woman. How much more preposterous can they get?

"OH, WE'RE NOT PLANNING TO JOIN YOUR CHURCH—WE'RE JUST ON A LISTENING TOUR!"



- Michelman believes the McCorvey lawsuit shows the "extreme lengths" to which anti-abortionists will go, but in the same July 15 statement quoted above, she states that NARAL "will have an extremely aggressive political program in 2003 and 2004." Obviously extremism is bad among anti-abortionists, but good among pro-abortionists.

Let the language games begin. Just remember that pro-abortionists are mighty sore losers, so look for them to pull out all the rhetorical stops in the future to defend their indefensible positions — a way of life for people who run from the truth.

GUEST OPINION:

Christian families must be prepared

By Larry Burkett, 1939 - 2003



difficulty, simply because there was no plan for the future. In almost every case of financial difficulty, it was the result of having no will. Why? Because the head of the family thought he or she was too young to have a will. Or, even if a will did exist, often it was very inadequate and not current.

Have a will.

In the Bible, a steward is someone who manages the possessions of someone else. God expects every Christian to be a good steward of the possessions He has entrusted to him or her. And, preparing a will is a vital part of being a good manager.

As a Christian you should be aware that everything you pos-

sess belongs to someone else: God. You and I are simply stewards — managers — of our lives, time, possessions and our families. As a Christian, you should have a will.

Consider insurance.

Insurance provides a method that allows you to pay a little now to cover major future expenses due to illness, death, accident, theft and so forth.

Even though insurance is never mentioned in the Bible, the principle of providing for the future certainly is. "A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naive proceed and pay the penalty" (Pro. 27:12).

I recommend that you ask your pastor or another trusted Christian friend to give you

some recommendations regarding insurance agents they know. Then, prayerfully and carefully do some research on both the agent and the company before you choose. It might take you some time and effort to do this, but it can result in great benefit to you and your family.

Plan today.

Neglecting to talk about something doesn't make it go away. And most of us don't really like to talk about death, so we often avoid making appropriate decisions about wills, trusts or insurance.

Talking about death won't make it happen any sooner, but not talking about it and failing to prepare for your loved ones with a will, trust or insurance could result in real problems for your spouse and children. The emotional pressures placed on family members at the time of death can be significantly lessened when a will or trust is in effect and adequate life insurance has been provided.

Are you planning for the future? Isn't it about time you planned for your family's tomorrow?

Church planter planting churches in Miss.

By Frank Lay
Correspondent

Church planters plant churches, and Alberto Rivera Jr. sees himself as a church planter. So far, he has participated in the beginning of three Hispanic Baptist churches in Mississippi and within the next six months hopes to begin yet another church in the Gulf Coast Association.

Alberto grew up in Los Angeles but spent his teenage years in Sonora, Mexico. When he was 16, a volunteer mission team of Mississippi Baptists conducted an evangelistic meeting in Sonora. Alberto attended the services and received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

One of the volunteers continued taking mission teams to Sonora and Alberto, who is fluent in English and Spanish, became his translator. On one of those mission trips, Alberto met his future wife. Alberto and Romy now have two children: Max, age 12, and Nick, age 7.

After moving to Mississippi, Alberto began working with United Parcel Service (UPS). On the weekends he assisted in the planting of Hispanic Baptist churches, first in Laurel and

later in Hazlehurst. He soon realized God was leading him into full time ministry. In 1998, he was ordained by First Church, Brookhaven.

In 1999, Rivera left his job with UPS to attend Leavell College at New Orleans Seminary, from which he received his undergraduate degree. He is currently enrolled in the masters program at the seminary. In addition to his studies at the seminary and his busy schedule at Puerto Seguro, Rivera currently serves as president of the Hispanic Baptist Fellowship of church and is making plans for starting a second church in the near future. (BR photo)

In 2001, Al Green, pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, saw the potential for a Hispanic church on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Green and Neron Smith, a consultant in the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, invited Rivera to survey the Hispanic community.



VISION FOR CHURCHES — Al Green (left), pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis, serves as president of the Hispanic Baptist Fellowship of church and is making plans for starting a second church in the near future. (BR photo)

Rivera caught the vision and was convinced that God was leading them to begin the Iglesia Bautista Puerto Seguro (Secure Port Baptist Church) with First Church, Bay St. Louis as the sponsoring church. For a time Puerto Seguro met in the facilities of First Church. Soon needing an identity of their own, they began meeting in an old church building located near the entrance of Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

During the past two years the Puerto Seguro church has increased from a Sunday School class of eight, to a current attendance of 60. They are now meeting their budget and contributing to Gulf Coast Association and to the Cooperative Program. Puerto Seguro will organize into a church later this year.

Rivera did not plan on staying at Puerto Seguro. After all, he is a church planter and "church planters plant churches," he said. "Our goal was to train people and help them catch a vision and then find an indigenous pastor from the Hispanic Community."

Anwar Benjamin Fernandez, a native of Honduras, will soon begin serving as pastor of Puerto Seguro. Rivera will leave the church to participate in a new church planting effort in the Gulf Coast area. Rivera's

vision for Puerto Seguro was to multiply the church's ministry throughout the coastal counties. Already, initial demographic planning has been done in the Biloxi-Gulfport area.

Rivera hopes to begin the new church within the next six months with the assistance of Iglesia Bautista Puerto Seguro. Someone plants, someone else waters, and the Gospel reaches new heights in Mississippi.

For more information on church planting in Mississippi, contact Ed Deuschle, director of the Church Planting Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3224 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 224. E-mail: edeuschle@mbcb.org.

Church planting efforts throughout Mississippi are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the annual Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Looking back

10 years ago

Flash flooding sweeps through parts of the Baptist Building property in downtown Jackson as massive rainfall swamps much of the area. Water entered the chapel on the first floor and the annex building.

20 years ago

Volunteers from throughout Hinds-Madison Association roof 10 cottages on the India Nunnery Campus of The Baptist Children's Village in Jackson. Men's groups from over 35 churches participated.

50 years ago

Southern Baptists pay their pastors an average of \$2,498 per year, according to J. P. Edmunds, secretary, Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information for the Baptist Sunday School Board. The figure is a 5.3% increase from the previous year.

Crusade founder dies

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — William R. "Bill" Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, the world's largest Christian ministry, died July 19 from complications related to pulmonary fibrosis. He was 81 years of age. Fueled by his passion to present the love and claims of Jesus Christ to "every living person on earth," Bright spent more than five decades building and leading the Orlando-based Campus Crusade for Christ.

As the world's largest Christian ministry, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2001, Campus Crusade for Christ serves people in 191 countries through a staff of 26,000 fulltime employees and more than 225,000 trained volunteers working in some 60 niche ministries.

He was so motivated by the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20), Christ's command to carry the Gospel throughout the world, that in 1956 he wrote a booklet titled The Four Spiritual Laws, which has been printed in some 200 languages and distributed to more than 2.5 billion people. In 1979, Bright commissioned the JESUS film, a feature-length documentary on the life of Christ, which has since been viewed by more than 5.1 billion people in 234 countries and has become the most widely viewed, as well as most widely translated, film in history (more than 800 languages).

In 1996, Bright was presented with the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, worth more than one million dollars. The Templeton Prize is the world's largest financial annual award. Bright donated all of his prize money to causes promoting the spiritual benefits of fasting and prayer.

"He has carried a burden on his heart as few men that I've ever known. A burden for the evangelization of the world," said Billy Graham, a longtime friend of Bright and his wife Vonette. "He is a man whose sincerity and integrity and devotion to our Lord have been an inspiration and a blessing to me ever since the early days of my ministry."

Bright's work through Campus Crusade for Christ will continue under the leadership of Steve Douglass, a longtime associate whom Bright tapped in 2001 as his successor. "Not only have I lost a dear and lifelong friend in Bill Bright, but the world has lost one of its greatest visionaries and faithful servants of Jesus Christ," Douglass said.

"A Christian can't lose," Bright said in a 2001 interview. "If we live, we go on serving him. That's an adventure. If we die, we're in heaven with him, and that's incredible."

First Person: Gospel moves some to tears

By Erica Harms
BSU summer missionary

Second in a series

I couldn't stop the tears from falling when I saw a grown man hit his knees in prayer in the middle of a city park to ask Jesus to be the Lord of his life — and it all began with kickball.

My team was hosting a sports clinic for students in the area. When we saw this man standing against a tree observing our game, we assumed he was the father of one of the children but later found out that he was just taking a walk through the park and stopped to watch. It was a divine appointment. One of my teammates was able to lead him to Christ that afternoon, and he was the first of many.

This week I worked as the sports director on staff at a camp called Commission, based on the Great Commission, where 70 students from all over the state come not only to be spiritually fed but also to serve others in the community. On Monday afternoon we only had three kids show up at our sports clinic. My campers and I spent the evening passing out flyers promoting what we were doing in a trailer park across the street from the park, and then we hit our knees in prayer.

On Tuesday afternoon, 31 kids showed up and continued to come the rest of the week. We gathered the kids together for a snack break and did a short Bible study every day — but when God begins to

work, so does Satan. During the ten minutes we tried to present spiritual Truth, the distractions were tremendous.

However, on Wednesday afternoon, I sensed the Holy Spirit's leading like I never have before. I got up and walked over to an eight-year-old boy named Jonathan in the middle of the Bible study, forgetting about all

ent: the need for children's Bibles for those kids who had never had one in their household before. The staff then collected loose change from the campers as a missions offering and over \$1,000 was raised! On Thursday morning we got on the phone and called stores all over the state to get our hands on as many of them as we possibly could.

When they arrived on Friday morning, God had fully supplied our need and we were able to distribute them. "I've wanted to get my children Bibles for so long, but I didn't have the money to do so," said one mother through her tears.

Several students were curious about "the most important decision they could make" of which we spoke when we distributed the Bibles. I had the chance to share the Gospel with three children that afternoon, two of whom accepted the Lord.

When I finished telling a young boy named Terry about Jesus and asked if he wanted to become a Christian, he sat silently. As I looked intently into his eyes could tell he was contemplating everything I had said.

"No!" he suddenly shouted and ran away to play football. My heart was broken but I heard, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You did what I asked."



LET'S GO! — Young Idaho residents enthusiastically gather for a game of kickball with Erica Harms (right), Mississippi Baptist Student Union summer missionary, during a recent Commission evangelistic sports camp in Idaho. (BR photo)

of the other students. I began to ask him if he knew who Jesus was, and he told me that he'd never heard of him. Ten minutes later I had a new, teary-eyed brother in Christ.

That night I approached the staff and expressed a need that had become so appar-

Harms is a Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) Summer Missionary to Idaho. BSU summer missionaries raise their own funds for summer missions, and are supported administratively by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

explain, or receive the kind of support that is needed in their circumstances, but at our BSUs, daily care is found. Fellow students who have been along the same road encourage one another. Local pastors and encouraging friends join with the BSU workers to give care and Christian guidance.

In Mississippi, campus ministry takes place on 34 campuses, under the leadership of 35 campus ministers. They are there serving because God has called and prepared them and you and I sustain them. Every year in the lives of thousands of young people the Baptist Student Union becomes a significant instrument of God to bless college students.

BSU CARES. For many college students, the beginning of their experience in higher education sees virtually everything change around them. Their location changes, their foundation changes, their frustrations and their participation are all reshaped. It is a challenging and critical phase in life filled with huge opportunities, gigantic decisions, and enormous possibilities to mess up.

While, no doubt, mom and dad would be willing to help, encourage, and give direction, it is not always easy for these college students to ask, or

ing in their spiritual walk, share their living faith with those around them. Every year there are young people who come to know Jesus and are changed for now and eternity because of the ministry of Baptist students.

Sharing the light and the life of Jesus with others is certainly not just confined to our Baptist campuses; but, literally through mission involvement, they touch the world. In fact, this summer there are 130 BSU students who are serving the Lord across the land and indeed around the globe. These young people are on mission for Jesus and they are making a difference.

The money for summer missions is raised by the BSU participants in order to help send their fellow students on mission for our Lord. These students give up a lot to be a summer missionary. They give their time, energy, and their summer to go and devote themselves to do what Christ would have them to do on the cutting edge of mission work. You would be blessed and encouraged to know that year after year the BSU in Mississippi continues to be a leader in sending the largest number of stu-

dents per capita out on mission, and per capita, raising more funds than any other state.

A final and very important word is that BSU PREPARES. The BSU does not take the place of the church, but it certainly does undergird the work and becomes a link at a very important time in people's lives to help them get where they need to be in serving the Lord. Through the opportunities of service offered through the BSU and the spiritual atmosphere on campus that is provided, hundreds of young people have come to understand that the Lord has special claims on their lives and designs for their futures. All across our state, there are young people who are serving as pastors or on staff at a church because of an experience of God calling them as they were associated with the BSU. I do not know all of them, but I can count on my hands and toes and starting over again, the leaders in our churches who have come through BSU ministries, finding their place in Kingdom work.

The BSU is no second rate ministry and neither is it a sideline ministry of the church. The BSU is God's great Kingdom work on campus. Please pray for the BSU work in our state and for those who give direction, share love, and help provide a program that will touch lives. I dare say that every one of our families either have been or are now affected by the blessings of the BSU. When, where, and however you might be able to participate — please do so!

Veggie Tales company is up for sale

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Big Idea Productions, the creators of the popular Christian children's cartoon VeggieTales, is for sale after losing a breach of contract lawsuit and, according to Christian Retailing Online. A federal judge in June held a jury verdict against Big Idea in favor of its former distributor, Lyric Studios, Inc., according to the July 10 article. Lyric Studios has since sued Big Idea for all damages, plus a verbal contract. The company moved its mainstream market to the former Home Box Office in 2001. The judge upheld the jury's \$11 million award, including court fees, attorney fees and interest, which was expected to cripple Big Idea without outside financial help or a sale of the company.

In addition to the crippling lawsuit penalties, Big Idea is suffering from a premature move to expand the company, Christian Retailing reported. Just before the release of its first full-length feature film, Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie, Big Idea employed more than 200 people. The company is now down to 45 employees.

Big Idea, based in the Chicago suburb of Lombard, is moving forward with the August release of a new VeggieTales video, The Ballad of Little Joe, a retooled classics line on video and DVD, marketing partnerships with companies like Tyson Foods and Chuck E. Cheese, and several upcoming new VeggieTales titles in 2004.

BSU BLESSINGS

The ministry among collegiate students all across our state takes place primarily in, through, and around our Baptist Student Centers. On campuses of universities, colleges, and community colleges, from one end of the state to the other, the Lord has a physical presence through a great host of caring and capable directors, wonderful assistants, and volunteers who join with thousands of young people to both experience and express Christ's love on campus.

In Mississippi, campus ministry takes place on 34 campuses, under the leadership of 35 campus ministers. They are there serving because God has called and prepared them and you and I sustain them. Every year in the lives of thousands of young people the Baptist Student Union becomes a significant instrument of God to bless college students.

BSU CARES. For many college students, the beginning of their experience in higher education sees virtually everything change around them. Their location changes, their foundation changes, their frustrations and their participation are all reshaped. It is a challenging and critical phase in life filled with huge opportunities, gigantic decisions, and enormous possibilities to mess up.

While, no doubt, mom and dad would be willing to help, encourage, and give direction, it is not always easy for these college students to ask, or

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 24, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons - but they are helpless against our prayers."

Sidlow Baxter

27
The Santiago, Chile, Mobilization Team asks for prayer for two groups of pastors and lay leaders involved in church planting training. Pray they will seek God's direction and for the Lord to lead them to "a sense of peace" where they are to begin a new work. Many of these pastors and lay leaders are bi-vocational.

28
Kampala, Uganda, is a growing megacity in eastern Africa. There are many diseases and bacteria that affect those living in Kampala. IMB personnel in Kampala have struggled with these illnesses as well as other health problems. Please pray for the health of all the workers and their families.

29
For: (1) School Prayerwalk - Teacher Appreciation (WMU Emphasis); (2) Social Issues Emphasis: World Peace (CAC Emphasis); (3) Pray for peace in Cote d'Ivoire in order that IMB personnel can return to the Koyaka people to proclaim the riches of God's grace and love.

30
Ginger Smith is the administrator of the Baptist Mission Centers in Houston, Texas. Pray for Ginger as she leads the centers in carrying out their mission statement, and for the 15 summer missionaries who will serve at the centers this summer.

29
For: (1) National Acteens Convention, Nashville, July 29th - Aug. 1 (WMU); (2) Of the 286 million people in the United States (only China and India have more people), an estimated 200 million are lost. There are approximately 24 million people in Canada without Christ. Pray for more church planters.

30
A large Baptist church in India asked some international women to teach a women's seminar. The pastor told them that often these days, the Christian men of India are prevented from going some places to evangelize, but the women are completely free to go anywhere and share the gospel. Please pray for the women to be bold in their witness.

31
Practically nonexistent support is often the reason baby Christians in Japan's megacity mid-middle class like Y so often crash and burn spiritually just months after they decide to trust Christ. Y, desperately needing to cry out to God for her, had to make her a shining light to her family and friends who are still living in darkness.

31
For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 6th - 8th; (2) Pray that God would arrange circumstances among the Sitti of Ethiopia so that M., a Muslim-background believer, can have time off from her work to travel to the country side and disciple I. and others.

32
Thank God with missionaries Jim & Linda Malone, for God's work in a small town in Minas Gerais, Brazil. "Every afternoon mission team members provided a VBS presenting the gospel to about 100 children. Jim preached often in Portuguese and once in English at the evening evangelistic worship services. Forty-four adults gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

32
For: (1) Pastors and Wives' Retreat, Gulfshore, 7th - 9th (P/LD); (2) The Rome Team shares that approximately 300 Kurds from Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran presently live in a camp and a few housing facilities in Rome. The Kurds are the largest people group in the world "without a country." Pray that they find true life and hope in Christ.

33
For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson (SS); (2) Steve Hughes is director of Cross Way and 52.7 Adventure Ministries at Yosemite National Park. Pray for the innovators and summertime missionaries to be real in communicating their faith through relational evangelism to tourists.

34
The Germans have given us many Christmas traditions like lights, trees; and the songs, "O Christmas Tree" and "Silent Night," and yet today these traditions have replaced a personal relationship with God. Pray for missionaries Daniel and Tessa Allen as they seek to reach Brazilians who are descendants of German immigrants.

35
For: (1) III Centrifuge, Gulfshore, 26th-31st (LifeWay); (2) Please pray today for Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary (Eastern Europe). Also pray for President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia (Southeast Asia).

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26

Mississippi WMU Church Leadership Training

Special Interest & Core Conferences

Core Conferences at all 3 locations:

Getting Ready for the New Church Year:
• WMU Directors
• Women's Groups
• Adults on Mission
• Using Literacy and CBS in Language Ministry
• Acteens
• Youth on Mission
• Girls in Action
• Children in Action
• Mission Friends

Additional conferences at Garaywa only:

- Chronological Bible Storying
- Spanish? Yo Puedo Empezar Un Grupo Misionero?
- Forgiveness: the Beginning to Racial Reconciliation
- Sisters Not Rivals (WEM & WOM)
 - Servant Leadership
 - New Acteens Curriculum
 - New World Ventures
 - Opportunities for Mission Involvement
 - Restorative Justice
 - Plus many more...

Registration form available at www.mbc.org, or call the Mississippi WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317 or 601-292-3317

3 GREAT 2003 LOCATIONS

FBC, SENATOBIA

August 19
6:30-9:15 p.m.

CAMP GARAYWA

August 22-23
3:30 p.m.

FBC, WIGGINS

August 26
6:30-9:15 p.m.

Pastor and Wife Retreat

August 7 (2 p.m.) - August 9 (1 p.m.)

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Lew King
Minister of Music
FBC, Byram

Dr. and Mrs. P.J. Scott
Pastor and wife
FBC, Olive Branch

For more info, contact MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2003, through June 30, 2003. An "*" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

COOP. PROGRAM OTHER TOTAL

ADAMS CALVARY 678.96 2,857.73 3,536.69 CHI. TEMPLE 9,000.00 3,102.12 12,102.12 CRANFIELD 524.78 1,102.47 1,627.25 FBC NATCHEZ 49,524.36 6,038.47 110,610.81 HIGHFLD 12,542.35 11,959.35 24,501.70 IMMANUEL 6,716.21 6,326.04 13,042.25 MORGANTOWN 9,876.74 4,492.38 14,369.12 NEW HOPE 364.72 243.13 607.85 PARKWAY 37,613.44 17,202.09 54,815.53 SPRINGFIELD 1,888.80 1,746.20 3,635.00 STANTON 7,707.58 6,587.97 14,295.55 WASHINGTON 7,766.93 5,870.73 13,637.68 TOTAL 144,607.34 124,772.73 269,380.07

ALCORN ANTIOTH 1,947.49 5,006.47 6,951.96 BETHEL 1,260.26 4,592.39 5,251.65 BETHLEHEM 1,524.25 1,102.47 2,626.72 CALVARY 3,353.28 5,133.98 8,487.25 COUNTY LINE 500.00 2,523.00 3,023.00 EAST CORINTH 5,064.77 3,456.81 8,521.58 FBC BIGGERSVILLE 1,589.68 2,026.02 3,615.70 FBC CORINTH 86,456.43 39,283.28 127,729.71 GLENDALE 3,349.82 6,137.59 9,487.40 HINKLE 3,166.65 3,080.00 6,246.65 HOLLY 3,510.14 9,138.34 12,648.48 JACINTO 889.09 745.00 1,634.09 KEMPS CHAPEL 700.44 1,205.94 1,906.38 KENDRA 3,834.68 2,711.53 4,546.20 LIBERTY HILL 2,113.00 982.70 2,093.70 LONE OAK 3,115.00 3,468.00 6,583.00 LOVE JOY 649.13 1,121.89 1,771.02 NORTH CORINTH 100.00 600.00 700.00 OAKLAND 36,926.57 32,768.60 69,695.37 RIDGECREST 3,030.59 4,943.79 7,974.38 RIENZI 4,357.09 11,328.75 15,685.84 SOUTH CORINTH 6,406.76 5,136.18 11,542.94 600.00 2,015.00 TATE 38,768.89 35,204.07 71,972.96 TISHOMINGO CH'PL 3,935.03 2,845.65 6,780.68 UNION 1,225.73 1,870.68 3,040.42 UNITY 2,193.81 912.24 1,284.05 WEST CORINTH 4,278.00 13,637.73 17,916.73 WHEELER GROVE 26,507.33 13,455.20 41,962.53 TOTAL 251,397.03 215,856.41 467,253.44

ATTALA *ASSOCIATION 1,167.00 600.00 600.00 BEAR CREEK 1,207.14 2,432.65 3,639.79 BOWLIN 44.71 119.71 164.42 CARSON RIDGE 165.00 2,353.00 2,518.00 DOTY SPRINGS 2,058.00 2,728.68 4,786.76 EBEZER 851.00 1,051.00 1,902.00 EPIC 6,150.31 7,570.95 13,721.26 FBC KOSCIUSKO 88,211.53 75,428.25 163,049.78 HURRICANE 1,265.90 471.52 728.42 JERUSALEM 1,297.37 5,311.92 6,609.29 MCADAMS 4,266.10 6,804.07 11,070.17 MCCOOL 5,588.79 5,825.19 11,413.98 NEW HOPE 0.00 450.00 450.00 NEW SALEM 710.00 710.00 1,420.00 NORTH UNION 16,959.00 6,842.28 23,801.28 PARKWAY 14,193.00 11,884.50 26,072.50 PEER MEMORIAL 1,267.50 1,927.50 3,195.00 PELICAN REST 780.36 1,322.86 2,513.32 PLEASANT RIDGE 120.00 120.00 120.00 PROVIDENCE 0.00 38.42 38.42 SALLIS 3,000.00 6,907.33 9,907.33 SAND HILL 1,831.78 3,227.92 4,159.70 SECOND KOSCIUSKO 1,301.00 1,044.00 2,345.00 SPRINGDALE 2,289.40 1,906.35 4,195.75 UNITY 1,493.00 2,985.40 4,478.40 WILLIAMSVILLE 19,462.40 22,053.75 41,516.15 YOCKANOKA 631.17 1,292.32 1,923.49 ZAMA 364.14 8,827.10 9,191.24 TOTAL 160,012.16 165,429.87 329,442.03

BENTON/TIPTON *ASSOCIATION 2,267.57 2,453.00 2,453.00 ACADEMY 6,815.70 14,357.26 24,172.96 ASHLAND 1,512.00 1,609.00 3,121.00 CALVARY 194.00 194.00 388.00 COMMUNITY 1,377.00 410.60 1,787.60 CONCORD 850.00 2,452.90 3,302.90 DRY CREEK 408.38 1,233.26 1,731.62 FAITH-BENTON 17,014.90 12,371.09 29,385.89 FAIRFIELD 10,788.88 16,228.28 28,016.90 FBC HICKORY FLAT 4,463.00 1,249.84 10,150.04 FELLOWSHIP 4,371.00 2,129.00 10,100.00 FLAT ROCK 1,271.00 1,403.00 1,854.00 HAMILTON 1,721.82 2,391.82 4,113.64 HARMONY 7,426.45 13,339.91 20,766.36 LOWREY MEMORIAL 5,779.69 8,165.16 13,944.85 MACEDONIA-DEANT'N 0.00 938.00 938.00 MT HEBRON 395.00 500.00 995.00 MT MORIAH 1,122.00 2,824.00 3,946.00 MT OLIVE 2,211.02 721.76 2,982.78 NEW HOPE 0.00 1,268.10 1,268.10 NORTH RIPLEY 484.00 1,268.10 1,268.10 ORLAND 1,117.50 3,188.76 6,626.26 PEOPLES 586.47 1,188.78 1,905.26 PINE GROVE DUMAS 5,984.60 1,597.86 9,546.46 PINE GROVE H FLAT 4,582.00 2,025.00 6,624.00 PLEASANT HILL ASHD 500.00 1,915.00 2,415.00 PLEASANT HILL TIP 675.36 1,111.63 1,906.99 PROVIDENCE 1,826.51 1,661.91 3,408.42 SHADY GROVE 1,495.76 959.91 2,455.67 SPRINGDALE 17,677.74 10,678.60 28,356.34 TIPLERSVILLE 206.20 330.00 576.00 UNITY 3,000.00 6,000.00 6,000.00 WALNUT 3,520.21 6,600.00 6,600.00 WEST RIPLEY 18,525.01 1,257.85 3,146.70 WHITENTOWN 18,525.01 1,257.85 3,146.70 TOTAL 183,099.51 178,309.50 367,409.09

CALHOUN *ASSOCIATION 0.00 20.00 20.00 ANTIOTH 512.90 520.10 1,033.90 BANNER 3,715.61 3,863.36 7,578.97 BENTLEY 0.00 410.00 410.00 BIG CREEK 5,400.00 16,301.43 21,701.43 BRADFORD CHAPEL 2,013.61 5,459.42 8,170.00 CALVARY 1,180.10 380.00 2,570.40 COLEGE HILL 1,888.00 5,051.16 6,935.16 CONCORD 10,025.00 6,261.07 16,286.59 DUNCAN HILL 944.00 305.00 1,249.00 ELIARD 1,796.01 2,652.65 4,448.66 FBC BRUCE 27,252.00 12,907.51 40,159.51 FBC CALHOUN CITY 26,590.00 29,410.52 58,000.52 FBC PITTSBORO 4,866.00 5,232.35 10,098.35 FBC VARDAMAN 17,637.87 8,270.43 25,908.30 GRACE SOU BAPTIST 510.00 1,473.30 1,983.30 LANTH 1,153.32 2,746.72 3,899.39 MACEDONIA 1,207.21 2,438.79 3,692.39 MIDWAY 1,168.18 1,028.02 2,616.20 MT MORIAH 4,263.01 3,968.75 8,221.36 NEW HOPE 300.00 300.00 600.00 NEW PROVIDENCE 1,313.80 1,313.80 2,627.60 OAK GROVE 439.94 219.97 659.91 OLD TOWN 2,046.72 2,286.60 4,333.40 PARKER 1,296.46 867.64 2,164.10 PILGRIMS REST 153.43 153.43 306.46 PLEASANT GROVE 204.14 1,006.35 1,110.49 PLEASANT HILL 5,360.85 6,017.41 11,378.26

COOP. PROGRAM OTHER TOTAL

PLEASANT RIDGE 1,908.96 2,858.48 4,767.44 POPLAR SPRINGS 593.30 880.98 1,474.28 ROCKY BRANCH 791.41 1,620.69 2,411.10 ROCKY MOUNT 460.00 580.00 1,040.00 SABOUCLA 6,063.57 4,785.38 10,852.98 SAMPLA 724.44 918.31 852.38 SPRING HILL 1,188.90 1,238.83 2,267.57 TURKEY CREEK 1,188.90 606.80 861.41 WESTSIDE 1,332.44 613.03 1,966.47 TOTAL 160,627.38 160,606.73 321,314.11

COOP. PROGRAM OTHER TOTAL

CARROLL BLACK HAWK 1,118.61 1,310.74 2,429.35 CALVARY 1,159.73 1,380.03 4,340.06 CENTERVILLE 27,327.38 15,855.79 43,883.17 COILA 323.47 515.00 838.47 HARMONY 100.00 100.00 1,500.00 HICKORY GROVE 381.58 381.58 LIBERTY 3,241.92 5,267.23 8,528.58 MALMAISON 1,998.11 2,049.34 6,640.45 MT OLIVE 8,104.90 10,852.74 18,957.64 TOTAL 160,627.38 160,606.73 321,314.11

COOP. PROGRAM OTHER TOTAL

OZION 649.51 289.51 1,138.76 GENTIAN VALLEY 1,203.57 4,144.64 7,446.74 PROSPERITY 2,203.10 716.80 2,150.36 RAMEAH 1,233.56 2,920.00 885.74 ROXIE 4,965.12 1,502.14 1,771.39 SAREPTA 1,502.14 2,784.42 5,273.53 SILOAM 3,502.34 7,684.42 11,186.76 SPRINGHILL 1,247.68 1,030.00 2,777.88 UNION 1,247.68 1,030.00 2,777.88 TOTAL 61,862.12 53,283.23 115,145.35

GEORGE *ASSOCIATION 0.00 11,515.00 11,515.00 COOP. PROGRAM OTHER TOTAL

ACRICOLA 16,051.00 10,042.93 30,152.49 BARTON 20,111.47 600.00 20,711.47 BEALE 1,203.57 1,203.57 BENNDALE 27,820.49 20,096.09 47,916.78 HERITAGE 1,211.14 1,627.34 2,739.48 MIDWAY 1,013.00 1,450.65 2,464.23 NORTHSIDE 1,013.00 1,831.06 1,831.06 ROCKY CREEK 29,400.00 30,427.00 59,827.00 SHADY GROVE 17,911.75 11,311.36 29,223.11 SOUTHSIDE 2,665.54 7,310.68 9,976.57 VERNAL 2,651.19 1,016.18 2,812.18 TOTAL 117,448.94 113,400.90 230,849.04

GOLDEN TRIANGLE *ASSOCIATION 27,841.21 18,204.31 46,045.52 ADATON 1,000.00 1,704.37 2,704.37 ANTICHE 4,035.00 8,400.00 12,435.00 ARTESIA 4,299.00 2,780.00 7,079.00 BETHEADA 1,798.57 1,798.57 BORDER SPRINGS 5,368.78 3,705.00 9,073.78 CALEDONIA 1,286.72 1,095.54 4,382.21 CALVY COLUMBUS 12,862.00 4,694.04 17,556.04 CALVY STARKVILLE 40,206.79 32,037.30 72,244.09 CALVY W POINT 17,939.61 7,950.61 25,890.22 CALVY V POINT 17,939.61 7,950.61 25,890.22 FAIRVIEW 119,375.51 57,060.70 176,436.21 FAITH STARKVILLE 10,056.00 7,432.90 17,488.90 FAITH WEST POINT 10,056.00 1,832.00 12,888.00 FBC COLUMBUS 101,403.00 142,493.56 243,896.56 FBC MABEN 1,377.62 1,524.00 2,901.62 FBC STARKVILLE 67,832.90 36,797.69 104,630.59 FELLOWSHIP 30,056.32 9,624.22 39,680.54 FRIENDSHIP-COL'BUS 1,073.00 4,312.00 5,385.00 FRIENDSHIP-STURGIS 5,325.00 3,485.00 8,810.00 HOBONIC 1,200.00 1,000.00 2,200.00 HOP 1,000.00 1,000.00 2,000.00 HOM 3,009.91 9,030.98 12,039.88 HOMOLO SPRINGS 9,405.59 6,128.08 15,520.67 LONGVIEW 2,725.00 8,877.55 11,602.55 MCBEE 3,136.13 6,101.53 9,247.68 MEADOWVIEW 15,836.16 6,013.51 21,849.67 MORGAN CHAPEL 11,819.61 7,662.36 19,481.97 MT VERNON 32,756.14 10,307.00 43,063.22 MT ZION 35,173.00 15,747.83 50,920.83 MURRAHS CHAPEL 695.01 556.00 1,247.31 NEW COVENANT 800.00 700.00 1,500.00 NEW HOPE COLUMBUS 1,200.00 313.64 1,513.64 NEW HOPE ST KVILLE 1,200.00 3,295.00 4,595.00 NEW MONTPELIER 10,633.72 1,629.00 12,262.72 NEW SALEM 1,190.00 1,000.00 2,190.00 PEEBA 4,640.55 1,550.00 6,190.50 PELHAM 1,200.00 1,000.00 2,200.00 PLEASANT HILL 32,625.00 14,198.50 47,144.98 PLYMOUTH 583.00 550.00 1,133.00 RIVERSIDE CHAPEL 4,456.60 2,955.00 7,411.60 SELF CREEK 1,620.36 1,657.00 3,277.36 SILOAM 2,801.00 2,010.13 4,811.13 STURGIS 5,727.42 10,627.83 16,355.25 TRINITY 1,460.00 1,269.00 2,729.00 WAKE FOREST 1,991.23 1,142.00 3,133.23 WEST END 12,336.24 6,493.24 18,631.98 TOTAL 719,659.51 522,374.89 1,242,034.40

GREENIE *ASSOCIATION 4,813.49 5,239.99 10,053.48 CEDAR GROVE 9,000.99 6,783.60 15,784.68 EAST SALEM 573.94 1,675.94 2,251.88 FBC LEAVESVILLE 8,525.20 8,230.55 16,755.75 FBC MC LAIN 4,854.17 5,061.51 9,915.68 FBC SAND HILL 2,221.07 3,113.23 5,334.30 FELLOWSHIP 1

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
LAMAR															
AUTUMN RIDGE	300.00	1,480.00	1,780.00	FBC NETTLETON	12,287.64	6,108.00	18,395.64	OAKVIEW	385.14	2,989.08	3,374.22	NEW CHOCTAW	120.63	1,049.43	1,170.06
BAXTERVILLE	2,652.00	1,304.65	3,956.65	FBC PLANTERSVILLE	10,158.48	11,144.55	21,303.03	OLD RICE ROAD	385.00	1,183.60	1,183.60	BOGUE CHITTO	120.63	1,049.43	1,170.06
BELLEVUE	7,395.52	3,080.00	10,475.52	FBC SALTILLO	35,620.84	14,996.26	50,617.10	OLD VICKSBURG RD	1,925.39	1,757.61	3,683.00	CANAAN	0.00	343.58	343.58
CALVARY	12,052.37	15,597.44	27,649.81	FBC SHANNON	7,804.88	2,419.50	10,224.38	PARKHILL	2,728.39	3,161.87	5,890.26	CORINTH	0.00	471.66	471.66
COALTOWN	879.49	1,439.47	2,118.96	FBC TUPELO	77,500.02	85,483.14	162,983.16	PARKWAY	53,499.96	84,588.30	130,088.26	HOPE INDIAN	100.00	0.00	100.00
CORINTH	3,325.61	4,742.38	8,067.99	FBC VERONA	12,715.71	9,475.72	22,191.43	POCAHONTAS	6,247.95	2,539.00	8,786.95	HOPEWELL	125.00	229.00	354.00
FBC LUMBERTON	6,471.02	10,612.81	17,083.83	GRACE MEMORIAL	149,134.10	56,884.51	206,018.61	RAYMOND ROAD	22,341.10	13,450.21	35,784.31	MADISONIA	0.00	411.70	411.70
FBC OLHOM	1,060.00	1,678.00	2,748.00	HANNSBURG	1,127.53	1,127.53	2,255.06	RECREST	85,200.50	2,107.21	107,307.72	MARION	140.00	1,938.00	2,078.00
FBC SUMMERS	32,222.93	52,124.31	84,847.24	LUMEDONE	1,205.50	1,450.80	2,656.30	SALEM	5,200.50	3,290.21	8,491.70	PEARL RIVER COMM.	0.00	1,494.54	1,494.54
GATEWAY	100.00	50.00	150.00	MACEDONIA	3,579.79	4,407.00	9,987.79	SIMMONS MEMORIAL	630.00	6,372.41	7,002.41	TOTAL	485.63	5,937.97	6,423.60
GOOD HOPE	3,347.59	3,072.79	6,420.38	MONUMENT DRIVE	1,861.63	3,79.79	6,191.42	SOUTHERN HILLS	1,680.00	720.00	1,800.00	NEWTON	711.53	1,330.88	2,042.41
GREENVILLE	246.19	0.00	246.19	MT SINAI	445.63	354.37	800.00	SOUTHSHIDE	2,500.00	1,240.45	3,740.15	BEAT LINE	930.00	2,267.00	3,197.00
HICKORY GROVE	1,577.92	1,000.00	2,577.92	MT VERNON	1,908.66	3,795.94	5,704.60	TRACE RIDGE	12,778.30	10,004.92	27,783.27	BETHEL	5,475.00	10,714.98	16,189.98
IMMANUEL	18,114.07	10,941.97	29,056.04	NEW HOPE	6,284.46	4,829.50	11,113.96	TWIN LAKES	11,913.61	10,908.92	22,822.53	BEULAH	5,475.00	10,714.98	16,189.98
MILITARY	1,637.51	1,764.00	3,401.51	OLD UNION	7,034.20	3,006.62	10,040.82	UTICA	13,944.00	9,014.54	22,958.54	CALVARY	6,198.02	6,410.05	12,608.07
OKAHOLA	1,712.00	1,712.00	3,424.00	OPEN DOOR	503.95	0.00	503.95	WESTVIEW	3,000.00	3,220.00	6,220.00	CHUNKY	13,908.82	13,420.14	27,328.96
ORAL	3,668.63	1,820.00	5,508.63	PALESTINE	300.00	300.00	600.00	WILWOOD	11,675.15	20,345.59	32,020.74	CLARKE VENABLE	28,035.11	24,965.31	53,468.42
RICHBURG	5,074.62	6,686.00	12,760.62	PALMETTO	1,967.13	579.00	2,546.13	WOODLAND HILLS	16,707.00	26,593.00	43,300.00	CONEHATTA	5,354.14	4,003.36	9,357.50
TOTAL	160,005.06	123,120.63	283,125.69	PARKWAY	19,676.00	10,113.85	29,798.85	YANNDALL ROAD	80,697.34	12,833.05	93,530.39	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
LAUDERDALE				PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	TOTAL	1,897,041.95	1,530,323.14	3,427,365.09	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
ABERDEPHIA	4,064.00	2,331.00	6,395.00	PRICEVILLE	1,181.38	2,111.62	3,293.00	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
ABROWOOD	300.00	1,900.00	2,200.00	RICKWOOD	5,727.45	1,000.00	6,727.45	PRICEVILLE	1,181.38	2,111.62	3,293.00	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
BAILEY	0.00	244.94	244.94	SKYLIN TUPelo	6,016.11	8,162.53	14,178.64	RICKWOOD	5,727.45	1,000.00	6,727.45	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
BETHANY	7,706.35	2,756.59	10,462.94	UNION CHAPEL	2,156.00	2,720.00	4,876.00	RICKWOOD	5,727.45	1,000.00	6,727.45	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
BRIARWOOD	4,681.00	5,261.98	9,942.98	WEST JACKSON ST	47,434.65	21,998.87	69,433.52	RICKWOOD	5,727.45	1,000.00	6,727.45	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
CARMEL	3,045.56	4,793.90	7,839.46	TOTAL	77,926.15	431,219.23	1,205,145.38	RICKWOOD	5,727.45	1,000.00	6,727.45	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
CAUSEYVILLE	4,966.60	3,422.27	8,388.87	LEFLORE				PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
CENTER GROVE	1,058.05	2,766.18	3,824.23	ASSOCIATION	0.00	376.76	376.76	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
CENTRAL	13,500.00	17,010.25	30,510.25	CALVARY	9,460.67	6,397.00	15,857.67	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
EIGHTH AVENUE	7,092.38	3,003.99	5,095.77	CHRISTY	12,225.09	5,637.69	18,862.78	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
FBC COLLINSVILLE	54,176.98	25,418.69	79,595.67	FBC GREENWOOD	24,477.07	23,810.45	48,287.52	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
FBC LAUDERDALE	8,198.25	6,070.85	14,269.10	FBC ITA BENA	6,162.13	5,885.73	9,051.86	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
FBC MARION	9,091.91	11,808.59	20,890.50	FBC MINER CITY	7,433.00	1,450.00	8,883.00	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
FELLOWSHIP	48,102.00	52,282.04	100,384.04	FBC MURKIN	10,512.42	4,633.48	14,925.90	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
FIFTH AVENUE	36,672.42	28,772.52	65,445.94	FBC NORMAN	12,225.09	5,637.69	18,862.78	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
GOODWATER	103.81	1,200.00	1,203.81	FBC O'NEAL	58,07	0.00	58,07	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
HERRON	14,150.93	18,603.39	33,754.32	FBC OLHOM	900.00	11,900.00	11,900.00	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793.43	2,793.43	4,586.80
HIGHLAND	76,045.80	52,410.50	129,456.30	FBC SCHAFTER	900.00	600.00	1,500.00	PEASANT GROVE	118.85	100.00	218.85	PEACEFUL	1,793		

COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
LOCKE STATION	3,765.47	3,462.95	7,228.42	CATO	16,125.19	10,715.03	26,840.22	MT VERNON	610.93	243.00	853.93
NORTH BATESVILLE	.00	2,298.00	2,298.00	CLEAR BRANCH	3,127.69	3,611.19	6,738.88	NEW LIBERTY	5,718.00	5,147.00	10,865.00
PEACH CREEK	2,323.68	6,551.58	8,875.26	CLEARY	19,713.55	19,484.38	39,197.93	NEW PROSPECT	5,910.46	4,668.53	10,576.99
PHARSALIA	415.47	780.00	1,195.47	CONCORD	4,571.48	2,130.00	6,701.48	NEW SALEM	3,923.42	5,717.44	9,640.86
PILGRIMS REST	2,292.54	2,045.00	4,337.54	COUNTY LINE	600.00	300.00	900.00	OLD UNION	1,452.10	2,795.25	4,247.35
POPE	6,444.00	4,450.00	10,894.00	CROSS ROADS	4,336.80	3,037.80	7,374.60	OLDHAM	1,965.33	1,673.20	3,638.53
ROSE HILL	72.34	.00	72.34	CROSSGATES	25,000.00	44,634.81	69,634.81	PADEN	953.40	1,945.40	2,896.80
SARDIS LAKE	5,241.43	4,093.00	9,334.43	CROSSVIEW	3,636.84	4,296.49	7,933.33	SHADY GROVE	20.00	80.00	100.00
SHADY GROVE	2,800.00	3,967.00	6,767.00	ESIDE PELAHATCHIE	23,473.82	14,263.19	37,737.01	SOUTH CROSSROADS	1,604.20	1,753.00	3,479.20
TOCOWA	1,246.43	879.00	2,125.43	FBC BRANDON	28,200.00	75,657.65	97,833.65	SOUTHWOOD	1,604.25	900.23	1,448.08
UNION	2,160.53	1,311.63	3,472.16	FBC FARNIN	10,919.00	15,466.20	26,005.20	TISHOMINGO	15,587.04	16,428.68	36,015.72
WEST BATESVILLE	500.00	100.00	600.00	FBC LORENCE	20,000.02	16,625.30	36,625.35	UNIT	807.55	549.22	1,356.77
TOTAL	179,199.88	116,462.83	295,562.71	FBC PEARL	29,862.06	16,995.48	46,857.54	YELLOW CREEK	897.34	2,150.87	3,048.21
PEARL RIVER				FLOWOOD	37,036.11	38,543.43	75,579.54	TOTAL	82,629.70	99,580.39	182,210.09
BETHEL	8,519.69	6,360.43	14,880.12	GALILEE	16,119.00	2,663.28	18,782.28	UNION	610.93	243.00	853.93
CENTRAL	7,241.06	6,219.40	13,460.46	GRACE	481.20	740.61	1,221.81	BEECH GROVE	50.50	50.50	100.00
CORINTH	2,282.35	1,384.22	3,666.57	GRANDVIEW	930.57	191.17	1,171.84	BETHESED	108.90	217.80	
CRANE CREEK	7,730.98	2,556.23	10,287.21	GUNTER ROAD	7,285.19	6,297.80	13,582.99	ELMO	1,357.51	1,011.49	2,369.00
DERBY	1,594.26	2,899.98	4,494.24	HICKORY RIDGE	1,591.00	1,467.70	3,058.70	FAYETTE	2,513.00	5,346.00	7,859.00
EMMANUEL	150.00	150.00	300.00	JOHNS	3,383.25	3,559.00	6,942.25	HERMANVILLE	1,006.73	1,335.68	2,342.41
FAITH MEMORIAL	.00	640.55	640.55	LAKE HARBOR	3,409.22	2,460.79	5,870.01	PATTISON	473.47	703.00	1,176.44
FBC CARRIERE	1,133.36	1,635.14	2,768.50	LEESBURG	773.80	1,757.46	2,531.26	PEASANT HILL	2,071.00	2,439.00	4,500.00
FBC NICHOLSON	1,500.00	1,139.00	2,639.00	LIBELINE	13,701.25	3,281.78	16,993.68	PORT GIBSON	6,036.83	1,034.09	10,334.92
FBC OZONA	1,049.05	882.67	1,931.72	LIGHTHOUSE	14,705.25	10,227.26	25,192.51	REDFORK	1,236.09	1,840.93	3,076.00
FBC PINEAPPLE	78,750.21	55,331.58	128,281.75	MAULRINE HEIGHTS	4,263.34	2,675.29	66,938.63	SHILOH	1,422.70	6,825.03	8,247.73
FAT TOP UNTITY	25,227.42	23,880.75	49,108.17	MOUNTAIN CREEK	13,886.43	12,922.76	26,579.19	UNION CHURCH	3,015.28	8,156.59	11,172.00
FORDS CREEK	2,189.00	2,571.00	4,760.00	MOUNTAIN GROVE	3,718.00	4,280.00	7,998.00	TOTAL	19,380.46	26,817.56	46,198.02
GOODYEAR	9,202.26	7,815.10	17,017.36	MT PISGAH	9,564.17	5,074.81	14,638.98	UNION CO	2,824.10	2,334.73	5,158.83
GRACE MEMORIAL	90.44	288.30	378.74	MT ZION	4,978.67	8,294.45	13,273.11	AMAZIAH	200.00	580.00	780.00
HARMONY	2,904.86	2,400.30	5,305.16	OAKDALE	19,074.41	6,024.62	25,099.03	BEECH SPRINGS	1,357.51	14,271.39	15,087.10
HILLCREST	1,840.94	2,904.20	4,745.14	PARK PLACE	81,939.05	15,684.26	97,623.31	BETHEL	815.71	960.00	1,677.51
HUNPER GROVE	6,509.48	6,971.69	13,481.17	PAUL TRUITT MEM	11,109.50	4,252.38	15,361.86	BEULAH	3,717.51	4,677.51	8,395.00
NEW HENLEYFIELD	2,273.64	2,037.48	4,311.12	PEARSON	11,619.29	9,295.83	20,915.12	BLUE SPRINGS	1,662.16	6,621.16	8,287.31
NEW PALESTINE	9,235.11	9,404.33	18,638.55	PELAHATCHIE	23,397.14	5,659.91	29,057.05	CENTER SPRINGS	2,976.63	5,149.00	13,225.62
OAK HILL	3,829.01	4,354.96	8,183.97	PINEVILLE	38,592.00	12,006.16	50,598.52	CORINTH	6,291.00	12,872.16	22,485.54
OLIVE	4,316.00	4,683.00	9,000.00	PIKE	1,223.78	9,526.50	10,746.28	ENTERPRISE	4,868.15	1,486.15	6,354.95
PARKVIEW	977.74	2,502.72	3,180.46	PIKEETTE	11,223.78	9,526.50	20,733.94	FBC NEW ALBANY	53,073.99	32,750.01	85,824.00
PINE GROVE	17,295.00	14,791.25	32,086.25	ROBINHOOD	1,023.11	1,727.00	2,750.18	FREDONIA	9,496.38	17,739.19	27,215.57
ROLLING HILLS	4,194.98	2,647.00	56,181.00	ROBINS	2,388.43	3,161.25	5,549.68	GLENFIELD	5,668.71	2,986.00	8,554.71
ROSEFIELD PARK	2,937.44	6,766.62	8,694.06	ROCK BLUFF	1,393.24	1,831.57	3,224.81	HARMONY	7,776.34	1,650.00	9,426.34
SPRINGHILL	17,775.95	19,308.93	32,044.88	ROCK HILL	5,500.07	5,525.23	11,033.30	NEW OAK GROVE	41,780.55	58,387.11	100,167.66
STEPP HOLLOW	22,588.33	23,373.85	45,972.18	ROSEWOOD	3,029.00	3,065.00	6,094.00	NEW NORTHSIDE	2,116.88	3,224.68	5,341.56
UNION	5,493.84	7,067.45	12,561.29	ROTHWELL	14,361.42	16,313.67	50,675.09	NEW OAKSIDE	2,116.88	3,224.68	5,341.56
WEST POPLARVILLE	949.89	730.00	1,679.89	STAR	194.91	194.91	389.82	NEW PEASANT HILL	1,216.88	2,116.88	3,323.39
WEST UNION	1,183.24	1,183.24	2,366.48	THORN HILL	873.83	1,582.55	2,456.38	LIBERTY	1,350.00	2,815.00	4,165.00
WHITE SAND	1,061.72	2,341.32	3,403.04	TRINITY	1,820.00	5,173.00	6,993.00	LOCUST GROVE	250.00	161.00	411.00
TOTAL	273,799.64	256,365.52	530,536.16	WALKER HILL	1,429.35	866.08	13,345.43	MACEDONIA	10,660.00	6,612.00	17,252.91
PERRY				SCOTT	698,856.84	489,474.05	1,188,330.89	WALTHALL	10,660.00	3,728.47	17,252.91
ARLINGTON	826.23	1,295.05	2,421.28	BETHLEHEM	5,001.73	4,743.00	9,744.73	CALVARY	1,259.83	1,439.92	2,699.75
BREWER	2,606.00	1,603.00	4,209.00	BETHLEHEM	6,076.01	13,422.92	1				

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Michael Combs will be in concert at Zion Hill Church, Wesson, on August 23 at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door, and are available at Copiah Bank, Trustmark Bank, and Zion Hill Church. For more information, call (601) 643-5145.

Centerville Church, Soso, will dedicate a new worship



Acteens of First Church, Senatobia

center on August 3. The service will be held at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

The children of Harris Counce and the members of Kossuth Church, Ripley, welcome you to celebrate Counce's 50 years of service. A testimonial service will be held August 16 at 4 p.m. with a reception to follow. Worship will be held August 17 at 11 a.m. with a pot

luck lunch to follow. Anyone who has served with Counce is asked to send a note or picture for the scrapbook. For more information, call (662) 837-9582.

First Church, Vancleave, will present Armageddon Wake-up Conference with Moody Adams on August 3. Seven Miracles of the Iraqi War Zone will be



GAs of First Church, Senatobia

held at 8:30 and 11 a.m. My Trip to the Iraqi War Zone will be held at 9:45 a.m., The Trojan Horse Threatening America will be held at 5 p.m., and The Last-Days Attacks in the Family will be held at 6 p.m.

First Church, Senatobia, held their GA/Acteen coronation on May 14. Pictured are the GAs and the Acteens with their escorts.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



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QHU V MVFF KZO EI
AKVDVO MVOCVH IWZ,
QHU BQZAG IWZ
OW MQFT VH EI
AOQOZOGA, QHU IG
ACQFF TGGK EI
YZUSEGHOA, QHU
UW OCGE.

GJGTVGF OCVDOI-AVN:
OMGHOI - AGPGH

Clue: T = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalms 5:4

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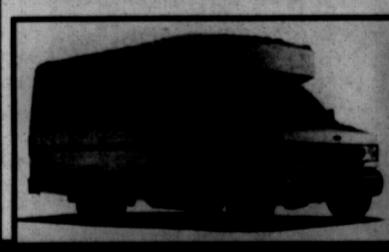
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HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Grace, Newton: April 27-30; Youth Revival; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m.; Scott Vaughn, East Central Community College, evangelist; Betty Chaney, music; Richard Ethridge, pastor.

Providence, Carrollton: July 27; honoring Bennie Watson, pastor; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will be served; George Smith, Carroll Montgomery, speaking; Promised, music.

Pine Grove, Picayune: August 3-6, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; P.J. Scott, Olive Branch, evangelist; Benji Rigney, music; Reggie Bridges, pastor.

Shady Grove, Batesville: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaking; Jerry Perkins, music; nursery provided nightly; Terry Tribble, pastor.

Sunrise, Petal: August 3; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:55 a.m.; dinner on the grounds will follow; dedication service, 1:30 p.m.; Gerald Buckley, speaking.

Liberty, Jefferson: August 10-13; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Terry Corley, evangelist; Claver Blair, music.

Pleasant, Ashland: August 3-6; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served; Bluff City Quartet, Memphis, Tenn., Sunday music; Bill Wages and David Jordan, revival speakers; Todd Holloman, worship leader; David Harrell, music; Eddie Martin, pastor.

Anding, Bentonia: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dwight Sibley, Calvary, Vicksburg, evangelist; Glenn Martin, Yazoo City, music; Joe K. Hill, pastor.

French Camp, French Camp: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., a fellowship will follow the night service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ernie Perkins, evangelist; Tony

Fortenberry, pastor; the nursery will be provided.

Friendship East, Charleston: August 3-7, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Bob Self, First, Grenada, evangelist.

Old Hebron, Newhebron: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Walker, Ridgecrest, Madison, speaking; Gregg O'Neil, Ridgecrest, Madison, music; Jon Haimes, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: July 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow.

County Line, Dossville: July 27; James Culpepper, speaking; Larry Burchfield, music, lunch will be served at noon; the Burchfields will be in concert in the afternoon; James Burrell, pastor.

Pleasant Grove, Brookhaven: July 27-August 1; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m.; a potluck lunch will be served, 5:15 p.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, preaching; Bo Parker, music; Kent H. Cochran, pastor.

Mt. Manna, Coldwater: August 3-8; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, First, Ripley, preaching; Chris Reeves, music; Carl Eldridge, pastor.

Sandersville, Sandersville: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Mitchell, Gulf Coast, evangelist; Ronnie Parker, Sharon First, Laurel, music; Donnie Parker, pastor.

Black Jack, Vaughan: July 27-30; Ken Anderson, Parkway, Clinton, preaching; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, Parkway, Clinton, music; Louis Smith, pastor.

Place-Union, Union Church: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m., and lunch will follow; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Steve Purvis, Stanton, Natchez, speaking; Brad Stevens, First, Lumberton, music; Ben Presnell, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: July 27-30; Bob Pittman, Memphis, Tenn., speaking; nursery will be provided; August 2; Heisman Homecoming; Saturday, 7 p.m. with the Perrys and Lovelaces.

Valley Park, Valley Park: August 3; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Robert E. Mack, former pastor, speaking; Caley Nichols, interim pastor,

New Hope, Pontotoc: July 26 and 27; Sat., lunch will be served at 11 a.m.; the Curtis Pitts family reunion dinner, 6:30 p.m., James Restaurant; Sunday, history reading, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner will be served; the steeple was given in memory of William Henry Pitts, Amanda Lenore Smith Pitts, Charles Curtis Pitts, and Rose Anna Warren Pitts.

Mt. Zion, Simpson: July 27; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., lunch at noon; Hobson Smith, preaching; Mitchell Roberts, music; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Gerald Aultman, preaching; Rick Holifield, music.

Herbert, Union: August 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, evangelist; Danny Harrison, music; The Travelers, Wed.

EBENEZER, HOMES: July 27; a covered dish will be served following the services; Malcolm Massey, former pastor, speaking; Billy J. Barrow, pastor.

night gospel singing; Mark McDonald, pastor.

Springfield, Natchez: July 27; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; Charles Heltman, speaking; people of Springfield, singing.

First, Lauderdale: July 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry W. Mixon, MBCB, preaching; Dale and Ann Coody, music.

Sapa, Eupora: July 27-30; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Doug Warren, Shiloh, Carroll, preaching; Harvey Overstreet, pastor.

Weir, Choctaw: July 27-30; Sunday-Wed., 11 a.m.; lunch will be served daily; 7 p.m.; Jerry Johnson, Beauregard Memorial, Longville, La., evangelist; Diane Atkinson, Weir, music; Jim Pender, pastor.

Grace, Calhoun City: July 27; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will be served at noon; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Carl Morris, pastor, and Buford Usry, preaching.

COLLEGE NEWS

The Quitman Certificate Center, affiliated with the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS), will be offering associate level undergraduate classes this fall. The Church Leadership Certificate Programs being offered are Pastoral Ministry and Biblical Teaching. Introduction to Old Testament and Introduction to Religious Education will be offered in the Pastoral Ministry Program while Introduction to Old Testament-Historical Books and Introduction to New Testament-Life of Christ will be offered in the Biblical Teaching Program. Classes begin August 26 at the Clarke County Association, Quitman. For more information, or interest in attending, call (601) 776-6050.

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PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH needed at Briarwood Baptist Church, Meridian, MS. Send resume to Briarwood Baptist Church, attn: Personnel Committee, 8733 Hillview Drive, Meridian, MS 39305 or call (601) 681-6615.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH in Brandon, Miss. is seeking a part-time worship leader. This position will be bi-vocational with the possibility of full-time in the future. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 398, Brandon, MS 39043.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH is now taking applications and resumes for Minister of music/worship. Send all info, including accurate references to Dr. Buster Wilson, Friendship Church, 1389 Main Street, Echu, MS 38841.

AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH in Tupelo, Miss., is now actively seeking a pastor. Interested pastors are asked to send resumes with picture to: pastor search committee, 1138 Road 931, Tupelo, MS 38804 or email Auburnbaptist@bellsouth.net.

PART-TIME MINISTER TO STUDENTS, Noxapater Baptist Church is looking for a part-time student minister to work with grades 7-12. Work requirements are Wednesdays and weekends. For more info contact: Noxapater Baptist Church, student minister search committee, P.O. Box 251, Noxapater, MS 39346, phone (662) 724-2156.

WANTED: DAY CARE DIRECTOR: Christian with 3-5 years experience as Day Care Director; Licensed day care director; works well with others. Self starter and self motivated. Send resume to Director, P.O. Box 400, Fulton, MS 38843.

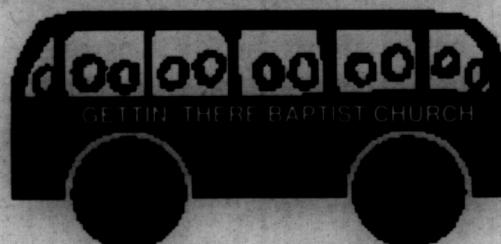
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Mize, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music and youth. Interested candidates should mail their resume to First Baptist Church, attn: search committee, P.O. Box 265, Mize, MS 39116. You may also contact the pastor, Jonathan Russell, by calling (601) 733-2233 (church) or (601) 733-5377 (home).

THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE is seeking individuals or couples for the position of child care worker. No experience required we will train. Good benefits. Contact Mrs. Peggy Taylor at (601) 922-2242 or ptaylor@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Good News! Controlled by the Spirit

Galatians 5:15-6:18

By Karen Hollowell

Last week our scripture focus ended with Paul explaining that the grace of God was not a license to indulge the flesh. This week, in examining the conclusion of Galatians, we will learn more specifically from Paul about the struggle between our sinful nature and the Spirit that resides within us as believers.

The key to winning this struggle does not lie in any ability that we possess. Within ourselves, we do not possess the power to resist the temptations of our flesh. The actions listed by Paul in verses 19-21 are results of our desires outside the control of the Holy Spirit.

This struggle will only be

won when we submit our desires, hearts, and minds, to the full control of the Spirit of God. We can see how strongly Paul felt about this in that he mentions living by the Spirit four distinct times. When he talks about being led by the spirit, keeping step with the spirit, and walking in the spirit, Paul is emphasizing a daily, ongoing experience. There should be a consistency in our thoughts and actions that shows we are committed to the Spirit's control in our lives. The result of this will be the fruit that Paul wrote about in verses 22-23 of Chapter 6. These are... "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." The

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love, joy, and peace Paul mentioned are inner qualities but are outwardly manifested in our actions to others. The last six things listed are those actions. Here is where the battle between flesh and spirit becomes apparent. Our sin nature is such that the traits listed above are not manifested by magic in our lives. We usually act or think in ways that are the complete opposite. Paul specifically lists some of these in verses 19-21: "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like..." These and other sinful actions will be constant temptations for us if we do not choose to be constantly led by the spirit. It may not always be easy, especially when the real Enemy is constantly seeking

opportunities to cause strife, hatred, and division among God's people. However, by God's grace and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our self-will does not have to control us. We have been empowered to be patient, kind, good, faithful, and gentle to others, but the empowerment we have received is not of ourselves. Paul writes in Ephesians 3:16 that we are inwardly strengthened with power from God through His Spirit. Without this, the spirit-filled life would be an impossibility.

Chapter 6 is Paul's final exhortation to the Galatians to care for each other. He talks about restoration of a fallen brother or sister, but in a way as to show love, not superiority because we may fall into a similar temptation. Paul warns against this kind of pride. He tells us that we are responsible for own actions and we should test them against God's word, not what other people are doing. God is not fooled by this type of spirituality (v.7).

We are to treat everyone in a way that shows that Spirit working within us. Paul in verse 10 tells us to "do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Paul concludes his letter to the Galatians by again warning against futile attempts to live up to the law (in this case, circumcision). What really matters is whether or not we love God with our entire self, how we treat each other, and how we show the love of Christ to the world. After all, as Paul said in 5:14, love sums up the entire law and by bearing each other's burdens we "fulfill the law of Christ" (6:2).

Living the spirit-filled life is not easy. In a society that loves instant gratification, we may be disappointed that the results of such a life may not be immediately evident, but God's word tells us not to give up. The ultimate result of sowing this fruit will be eternal life. I think that's worth waiting on!

Hollowell is member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Following God's Wisdom

James 1:1-18

By Kiely Young

Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Yes, "Stuff happens, and it happens to all of us, those who are 'good' and those who are 'bad'." We often want to ask "Why?" when the real question should be "Why not?" Our better response would be "What should I do in response?" The theme of the Book of James leads us to walk in faith and seek God's wisdom.

I. Be Joyful in Trials (1:1-4).
"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (v.1). We must understand the wonderful sovereignty of God. He does allow us to go through trying times. These are a part of His plan to make us stronger. Therefore, we keep our eyes on Him as we encounter struggles,

knowing these trials are a part of His plan. The only way to make us stronger is to take us through spiritual disciplines to enrich us and make us more like Him.

As "body builders" go through intensive exercise routines to strengthen muscles, they remember the line, "No pain, No gain." We should think no less about our spiritual walk. The next time you think the trial you are undergoing is just more than you can bear, just remember, God is still in control. He allows the pain, but for the purpose of making us stronger. He is there with us, even when we don't seem to see Him or understand the trial. Now, what will we do in the midst of the trial?

II. Ask God for Wisdom (1:5-12).



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A precious Christian lady, herself a stroke victim, was taking her seriously ill husband back to the hospital. He was not expected to live. Her pastor asked her how he could best pray for her. Her response gave a strong indication of her spiritual understanding. She replied, "Pray that I will have the wisdom not to waste all of this."

Often we are just asking God to get us through a tough situation, without asking what He wants us to do in the midst of the situation or what He wants us to learn from the situation. We must prayerfully seek the wisdom of the Lord and learn from Him. We must remember as Paul exhorts us in II Corinthians 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God...who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

God wants us to seek Him

and belief in faith He will give us direction. We must not look at Him as 'guardian angel' who might deliver us in times of trouble. Rather, we must see Him as our loving Heavenly Father who always wants the best for us. Therefore, we respond in challenging times with the sure faith that God has a purpose for the trial, and He will make us stronger as a result.

James says, "Blessed is the man who endures...he will receive the crown of life." (v. 12). That is God's promise. Peter reminds us in I Peter 5:10, "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."

III. Resist Temptation (1:13-18).

While God allows trials to enter the life of a believer, He NEVER tempts the believer. That comes from within the believer or from the enemy of believers, Satan and his crowd. The process of temptation is progressive. We are often enticed by our own

desires. If we do not allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to resist, the desire gives way to sin and fellowship with God is broken. As James will tell us later "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (4:7). We have a choice. God does not tempt us. James tells us that He only sends to us what is GOOD for us. "Every good and perfect gift is from the Father above." Since he sends only what is good, He will not possibly send temptation which might entice us to evil.

Temptations and trials are different. God does allow trials. He does not send temptation. If we fail on both counts He still loves us. He wants His best for us. When we do fail, He wants us to come back to Him, repentant and seeking Him, His wisdom and His strength. His plan is still the same, to mold us into the image of His Son, our Savior.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.

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